

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03027 020951Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 AGR-05 STR-04 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SAM-01 /090 W

----- 013193

R 020600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 34

INFO AMEMBAWSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3027

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MY

SUBJ: UMNO ELECTIONS

REF: KL 2525

1. ON MAY 30, SELANGOR CHIEF MINISTER AND UMNO YOUTH LEADER, DATUK HARUN BIN IDRIS, FORMALLY DECLARED HIS CANDIDACY FOR AN UMNO VICE-PRESIDENCY. AT UMNO YOUTH NATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANGKAWI ISLAND, KEDAH, HARUM SAID HE WILL SEEK REGULAR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL SEAT (HE IS NOW EX-OFFICIO VICE-PRESIDENT BY VIRTUE OF HIS POST AS UMNO YOUTH LEADER) IS PARTY ELECTIONS JUNE 21 TO MAKE WAY FOR YOUNGER LEADERS.

2. THOSE ALSO CONTESTING FOR THREE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POSTS INCLUDE: ABDUL GHAFAR BABA, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER; TENGKU RAZALEIGH, CHAIRMAN OF PETRONAS; DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, EDUCATION MINISTER; DATUK HAMZAH BIN ABU SAMAN, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER; TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE, HOME AFFAIRS MINIS-
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PAGE 02 KUALA 03027 020951Z

TER; TAN SRI GHAZALI JAWI, CHIEF MINISTER OF PERAK; AND TAN SRI

SYED JA'AFAR ALBAR, SENIOR UMNO LEADER FROM JOHORE.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE REPORTS THAT HARUN HAS TEAMED UP WITH UMNO "OLD GUARD" FIGURES JA'AFAR ALBAR AND TAN SRI SYED NASIR AND WITH NEGRI SEMBILAN CHIEF MINISTER DATUK MANSOR OTHMAN (WHO WOULD SUCCEED HARUN AS UMNO YOUTH CHIEF) TO DEFEAT YOUNGER RIVALS TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD, DEPUTY MINISTER IN PM'S DEPT. FOR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL AND SUPREME COUNCIL POSTS. HARUN, WITH STRONG UMNO YOUTH BACKING, IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF ELECTION AS ONE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS AND, AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE WOULD RATE GHAFAR BABA'S CHANCES AS VERY GOOD AND RAZALEIGH'S CHANCES BETTER THAN FIFTY-FIFTY. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE SUPPORT FOR GHAZALI SHAFIENND HAMZAH, WHILE GHAZALI JAWI SEEMS INTENT ON USING HIS LARGE PERAK STATE DELEGATION TO BARGAIN FOR GREATER LEVERAGE WITHIN PARTY. MAHATHIR, WHO HAS BEEN RUNNING HARD, IS NOW ALL BUT ELIMINATED BY HARUN'S CANDIDACY. HERETOFORE, RAZALEIGH, GHAFAR BABA AND MAHATHIR HAD GENERALLY BEEN PERCEIVED AS HAVING PM RAZAK'S BACKING AND HARUN'S CANDIDACY WILL BE SEEN BY MANY AS A CHALLENGE TO RAZAK'S CONTROL OF THE PARTY.

UNDERHILL

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